

Governor's Office for Local Development  
Office of State Grants  
Get Healthy Kentucky (GHK) Grant Program  
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To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the enclosed as an application for funding under the Get Healthy Kentucky Grant Program administered through the Governor's Office of Wellness and Physical Activity and the Governor's Office for Local Development. This application represents the culmination of many months' work on the part of a diverse range of partners throughout the Louisville Metro area. The partnership has worked to develop this program for a **Community Pedestrian Summit and Plan** under the name of the "Built Environment Committee" of the Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement, Louisville's regional Partnership for a Fit Kentucky coalition. The Built Environment Committee is among the most diverse and active partnerships in Louisville Metro, representing a wide array of government agency, private sector, non-profit, and community volunteer members who share a common goal: improving the health of Louisville residents through removing the barriers to physical activity from our city's built environment.

This proposal requests funding to implement the final and most critical phase of a larger project that is just now beginning. The Built Environment Committee has planned and is beginning to implement a large-scale community involvement and research process which will culminate in a major Pedestrian Summit in March of 2008. The ultimate goal of the project is to build citizen ownership of a *Community Pedestrian Plan* that will be developed to compile the results of the community involvement and research process. This plan will guide the development of Louisville's pedestrian infrastructure and programmatic initiatives for several decades to come. Establishing a foundation of citizen involvement and leadership from the beginning is the primary goal of the project. Aside from the actual Summit itself, the most critical part of this process is creating the Community Pedestrian Plan based on citizen input, publishing it, and distributing it to the citizens with the understanding and reality that it is in fact

*their* plan, to be implemented in partnership and with leadership by the citizenry, as opposed to a traditional municipal plan for which we have simply solicited public acquiescence.

We intend for this to be a groundbreaking approach to community involvement in the planning process, with pedestrian accessibility as its cornerstone and mission. We have worked from the start with the motto that, “Everybody is a Pedestrian.” This project has the ambitious intention to reach out to every citizen of Louisville, so that any project implemented from it is one born from the needs and desires of the people themselves in a genuine and heartfelt way. We are requesting assistance from the Get Healthy Kentucky Grant Program in order to be able to do the critical work of *compiling, creating, publishing, and distributing this Community Pedestrian Plan*, as well as *implementing a small pilot project from the Plan itself*. We request this support not only because we wish to create the most successful Plan possible, but because we understand and appreciate the fact that the government of the Commonwealth is as important a partner in the process as the local government and its collaborators. We are very excited at the prospect of having the state “parent” of the Mayor’s Healthy Hometown Movement as a primary sponsor of the Community Pedestrian Plan and its first project. Perhaps such a partnership will help to spread similar initiatives throughout the state and the rest of the Partnership for a Fit Kentucky Regional Coalitions.

A 2006 Policy Position Paper from the Kentucky Public Health Association entitled “Active Communities by Environmental Design,” (attached to this application) captures the mission of our project and this application. “Development of pedestrian master plans,” it states, “is a key strategy that Kentucky communities should take as a first step toward making an environment active...Along with policy changes, immediate modifications to the built environment that are not as complex or expensive as retrofitting an entire community should be made in local communities.” We actually came across this paper *after* development of this proposal, but we believe it captures perfectly our request for your assistance in creating a Community Pedestrian Plan and implementing an initial pilot project from it.

On behalf of the Built Environment Committee and the citizens of Louisville Metro, I am pleased and honored to submit our application for funding to support the creation of our Community Pedestrian Plan and pilot project. Thank you very much for the opportunity to secure your partnership in this effort.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Villines